ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

TEMPORARY

PROVINCIAL LUNATIC ASYLUM,

AT TORONTO,

FROM APRIL 1ST, 1846, TO MARCH 31ST, 1847, BOTH INCLUDED.

TORONTO:

PRINTED BY SCOBIE & BALFOUR, ADELAIDE BUILDINGS,

KING STREET EAST.

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TABLE 1ST.

Shewing the Admissions, Re-admissions, Discharges and Deaths, for the above period.

				M.	F.	Total.
Remaining in the Institution, April 1st, 1846				55	36	91
	M.	F	Total			
Admitted for the first time during the year	66	44	110			
Re-admitted during the year	10	3	13	76	47	123
Total under cure during the year				131	83	214
Discharged Recovered	37	14	51			
" Improved	3	3	6			
" Unimproved	5	3	8			
" Escaped	5	1	6			
" Died	10	1	11	60	22	82
Number remaining in the Institution, March 31st, 1847				71	61	132

In explanation of this table, of the six patients that escaped, four returned of their own accord by themselves; one was sent back by the Sheriff of the district in which he resided; one is still missing, he had so far recovered that for a fortnight previous to his leaving he was allowed to work at his trade in town.

Of the eleven deaths, four occurred from pulmonary consumption; two from exhaustion; two from epi-

lepsy; one from scarlatina maligna; one from delirium tremens, who was brought in a dying state, and only lived six hours after; one had been in a decline for several years, and died three days after admission.

TABLE 2ND.

Shewing the Number Admitted, Re-admitted, Discharged, Died and Remaining, from the commencement of the Institution, to March 31st, 1847.

	Admitted	Re-admitted.	Total.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining.
From 21st January, 1841, to March 31st, 1847.	411	76	487	305	50	132

TABLE 3RD.

Shewing the Admissions, Discharges and Daily Average Number of Patients for each month during the year.

MONTHS.	ADMISSIONS.			DISCHARGES.			AVERAGE.		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
April 1846	3	3	6	4	3	7	54.06	36.83	90.89
May..... "	5	3	8	6	2	8	55.16	36.35	91.51
June..... "	3	1	4	1	2	3	52.86	35.90	88.76
July..... "	6	8	14	4	0	4	55.96	41.54	97.50
August ... "	6	4	10	2	2	4	58.51	44.87	103.38
September "	8	3	11	10	1	11	60.33	47.03	107.36
October ... "	8	6	14	4	3	7	60.77	48.77	109.54
November. "	9	4	13	5	0	5	65.86	54.24	120.10
December. "	7	6	13	6	3	9	70.45	59.00	129.45
January ...1847	7	1	8	6	3	9	69.19	57.90	127.09
February .. "	5	3	8	4	0	4	68.64	59.00	127.64
March .... "	9	5	14	8	3	11	72.06	60.32	132.38
	76	47	123	60	22	82			

By this table, it would appear that the seasons have little effect in producing or assisting in the recovery of the disease.

TABLE 4TH.

Shewing the duration of Disease when the Patients were admitted.

	Males.	Females	Total.
1st Class—A month and less	21	13	34
2nd " More than a month and less than three	9	3	12
3rd " Three months and less than twelve	5	4	9
4th " Twelve months and over (any that have had previous attacks are included in this class)	37	23	60
Unknown	4	4	8
	76	47	123

TABLE 5TH.

Shewing the duration of Disease of those in the Institution, and the time resident therein.

CLASSES AS REGARDS DURATION.	TIME IN INSTITUTION.																			
	MONTHS.						YEARS.													
	1 to 3.		3 to 6.		6 to 12		1		2		3		4		5		6		T.	T.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M	F	M	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M	F.	M	F.	M	F.	M.	F.
From 1 to 3 months	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2
" 3 to 6 "	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
" 6 to 12 "	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
" 1 to 2 years	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
" 2 to 4 "	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	2	1	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	6
" 4 to 6 "	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	5
" 6 to 8 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	3
8 and over	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	2	..	7	6
Unknown	2	2	2	4	4	7	4	3	7	4	3	2	7	4	8	3	4	4	41	33
Total	11	6	7	9	5	10	4	4	10	7	10	8	7	4	9	7	8	6	71	61

From these tables it will be seen that a large proportion of the cases at present in the Asylum are of long standing; consequently few recoveries will take place. No restrictions have hitherto been put on the reception of patients, nor any consideration had, as to the likelihood of recovery of those who

were admitted. But, even in cases that were evidently hopeless from the first, although no cure could be looked for, still their admission has been of benefit to the community, and especially to their friends, who were thus relieved from the anxiety and difficulty of attending to them at home, by their being received into a public institution, where they are necessarily better attended to.

TABLE 6TH.

Shewing the average proportion of Recoveries and Deaths, from October 21st, 1845, to March 31st, 1847.

CLASSES.	RECOVERIES.			DEATHS.		
	Males.	Females	Mean.	Males.	Females	Mean.
1st Class	73.91	87.50	80.04	4.34	..	4.34
2nd "	88.88	20.00	81.22	..	..	..
3rd "	28.57	..	28.57	14.28	..	14.28
4th "	39.02	12.00	34.75	19.51	12.00	17.46

This table shows that four-fifths of the recent cases have been dismissed recovered, and consequently the great advantage to be derived in sending the insane early to a public asylum.

TABLE 7TH.

Shewing the Form of Disease of those admitted during the year.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mania	35	26	61
Melancholia	17	11	28
Monomania	..	2	2
Dementia	3	3	6
Idiocy	..	2	2
Delirium Tremens	4	..	4
Epilepsy	6	1	7
	65	45	110

This table has been furnished in conformity with the general custom; but those who are experienced in insanity attach little value to such a classification, as some patients will be melancholic at one period and maniac at another. The other classes are known with more accuracy.

TABLE 8TH.

Shewing the supposed Causes of Insanity of those admitted during the year.

CAUSES.	M.	F.	Total.	CAUSES.	M.	F.	Total.
Intemperance	9	4	13	Slander	..	1	1
Ill Health	2	..	2	Masturbation	2	..	2
Disappointed Prospects	7	2	9	Seduction	..	1	1
Loss of Kindred	1	5	6	Furor Uterina	..	2	2
Religious Frenzy	5	3	8	Solitary Confinement	1	..	1
Jealousy	1	3	4	Fatigue from Labour	..	1	1
Disappointed Love	4	..	4	Partial Loss of Vision	1	..	1
Loss of Property	3	..	3	Fear	3	2	5
Epilepsy	5	1	6	Coup de Soliel	1	..	1
Injury of Head	2	2	4	Syphilis	1	..	1
Fever Intermittent	2	1	3	Excess in Tobacco	1	..	1
Fever Puerpural	..	1	1	Hemorrhage	1	..	1
Domestic Affliction	1	..	1	Unknown	14	14	28
	42	22	64	Total, 110.	25	21	46

This table confirms the received opinion, that insanity proceeds sometimes from mental causes; for example, any strong emotions of the mind, such as that produced by fear,—sometimes from bodily disease or physical causes, such as a blow on the head. In some cases of long standing, and originally produced by mental or moral causes, which have come under my observation, the brain was found, on examination after death, to be altered in structure.

TABLE 9TH.

Shewing the Occupation of those admitted during the year.

OCCUPATION.	Males	OCCUPATION.	Males.	OCCUPATION.	Fem.
Farmers	14	None	6	Housework	34
Labourers	16	Clerk	3	Seamstress	2
Tailors	2	Weaver	1	Tailoress	1
Shoemakers	6	Tinsmith	1	Governess	1
Plasterers	3	Pedlar	1	Huckstress	1
Cooper	1	Blacksmith	1	School Mistress	1
Tanner & Currier	1	Machinist	1	Unknown	1
Merchants	2	Baker	1	None	4
Carpenters	4	Student	1		
	49	Total, 110.	16		45

When it is considered that the greater proportion of the population consist of farmers, labourers, and females occupied in house-work, it will not be surprising that so many are found in this table; certainly their employment does not predispose to the disease.

TABLE 10TH.

Shewing from whence those Patients admitted during the year were brought.

DISTRICTS.	No.	DISTRICTS.	No.
Home	61	Wellington	5
Niagara	7	London	2
Gore	17	Western	3
Midland	9	Dalhousie	1
Newcastle	6	Brock	1
Johnstown	2	Huron	1
Bathurst	5	Colborne	1
Simcoe	1	Ottawa	1
	108	Total 123.	15

In consequence of the great increase of the number of patients, the government allowed the east wing of

the parliament house to be used as a branch establishment, in addition to the former house. This additional building was well furnished; and about fifty of the best conducted patients were removed to it in July last. This house has the important advantage of exhibiting no appearance of a place of confinement, looking more like a boarding-house or private residence. All the bed rooms are furnished with washstands, basons, looking glasses, brushes, combs, indeed every thing that is usually found in a respectable boarding-house, and the breakage is not greater in proportion. The table is furnished with good plain nutritious food, and a knife and fork given to each patient. The males and females, who occupy different parts of this building, have also separate apartments assigned to them for their meals,—the whole of each class sitting at the same table. The greatest quiet and order prevails throughout the establishment.

TREATMENT OF INSANITY.

There are two kinds of treatment of the insane,—medical and moral. The bodily diseases which result in insanity are varied and complicated. My observation would lead me to believe that the insane are not so liable as the sane to acute diseases; when these occur, however, from the morbid state of the nervous system, they are not usually attended with that degree of pain and fever found in the case of the sane; consequently there is greater difficulty in ascertaining the exact nature of the disease, and in

determining the treatment to be adopted. During the past year, there have been in this institution two deaths from pulmonary consumption. The lungs were found, after death, to be almost entirely destroyed; although the patients, during life, had neither pain, cough, nor fever, the invariable attendants of the disease in other cases. As further confirmation of the opinion above expressed, I would here refer to the cases of three patients, who, previously to their becoming insane, had been labouring under intermittent fever; after becoming insane, and during the early part of their residence in the Asylum, no symptoms of that disease appeared. But suspecting, from their previous history, that this disease might still be connected with their insanity, as the latent cause, they were put under the proper treatment for intermittent fever. The insanity began to decline, and, with its gradual disappearance, the original disease again manifested itself in the usual symptoms. Ultimately, complete restoration to health of both body and mind were effected.

MORAL TREATMENT.

1st.—Religious Worship. The Reverend Mr. Grasett, Rector of St. James's Cathedral, continues to officiate regularly every Sabbath morning, and occasionally the Reverend Mr. Jennings, (Presbyterian,) with benefit to the patients. Those of the inmates who are Roman Catholics are allowed to attend their own church when they feel inclined, without a keeper, and they always return; indeed, it

seldom happens that an insane person will break his word.

2ND.—READING. It is to be regretted there is no library for the use of the inmates. A few books have been purchased from time to time but there is not that variety which is required to suit the different tastes of the patients who are capable of reading. They are particularly fond of reading the newspapers, to know what is passing. Messrs. Scobie & Balfour send two copies of the *Colonist*, free of charge,—a boon to the institution, worthy of special acknowledgment.

3RD.—AMUSEMENT. Encouragement is given to every proper and practicable sort of amusement. A ball was given to them in January, which, as well as the previous preparation for it, was highly beneficial. During the whole of the winter, in the branch Asylum at the parliament house, the Friday evenings were appropriated for dancing, and, for some time past, the Wednesday evenings for singing; this arrangement was found to be of great service to the patients generally, from the bodily exercise it gave them, as well as from furnishing both amusement and occupation to their minds.

4TH.—MANUAL LABOUR. Nothing tends more to the recovery of the patients than useful employment. The females who were capable of using the needle have been constantly employed; indeed, in this way all the sewing required for the institution has been done. It is more difficult to find suitable employ-

ment for the men, especially in winter. Adjoining the parliament house, there is an enclosure of land, about two acres of which were ploughed for the purpose of being made into a garden. This will give to the men out-door employment, from which much benefit may be expected to result.

It is with great pleasure I have to acknowledge my obligation to the Commissioners, for the prompt manner in which they have at all times complied with the requisitions made upon them.

(Signed) WALTER TELFER,
Medical Superintendent.